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Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 MC-02 PM-04
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-07
DODE-00 TRSE-00 L-03 H-01 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01
/083 W
----------221554Z 040473 /47
P R 221500Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TT RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1381
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 1227

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MILI, CM
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR M-16 RIFLES

REF: (A) YAOUNDE 1228 (B) YAOUNDE 388 (C) YAOUNDE 627
(D) YAOUNDE 928 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL)

1. MINISTRY ARMED FORCES SECRETARY GENERAL IBRAHIM WADJIRI REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH ECON OFFICER DISCUSS PURCHASE M-16 RIFLES (REFTEL A). IN VIEW PENDING FMS PROPOSALS AND VISIT DATT IRVING, DCM ACCOMPANIED. ALSO PRESENT WAS BRIGADIER GENERAL PIERRE SEMENGUE, INSPECTOR GENERAL AND COORDINATOR OF ARMED FORCES (SENIOR MILITARY OFFICER), AND UNIDENTIFIED COLONEL.

2. CONVERSATION BEGAN WITH ANNOUNCEMENT THAT GURC HAD DECIDED PURCHASE 2,000 M-16 RIFLES WITH DELIVERY TO BE MADE ASAP. DCM RAISED QUESTION OF DEMONSTRATION PER REFTEL B AND SEMENGUE
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SAID DEMONSTRATION NOT NECESSARY AS GURC HAD MADE DECISION STANDARDIZE ON M-16. DCM ALSO OBSERVED THAT FMS PROPOSAL STILL BEFORE CONGRESS AND, IF AND WHEN APPROVED, WOULD NOT BECOME EFFECTIVE UNTIL OCTOBER 1. WADJIRI SAID THAT THEY WANTED RIFLES IN ANY CASE AND SINCE FMS NOT YET AVAILABLE THEY WERE PREPARED TO PAY FOR SAME.

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3. ECON OFFICER GAVE GEN. SEMENGUE CATALOGUE ON RADIOS IN WHICH GURC HAS REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED INTEREST. SEMENGUE SAID MILITARY STILL SEARCHING FOR MODELS APPROPRIATE FOR THEIR NEEDS AND CLIMATE AND WOULD BE INTERESTED ALL POSSIBILITIES US MANUFACTURED ITEMS.

4. DCM RAISED QUESTION OF PREFABRICATED HOUSING FOR MILITARY IN CONTEXT RECENT VISIT DOUGLAS MONTGOMERY OF EQUATOR BANK (REFTEL C). WADJIRI CONFIRMED THAT GURC HAD SIGNED CONTRACT WITH SOGECOM, BUT OBSERVED THAT IT CONTINGENT ON SOGECOM OBTAINING FINANCING. DCM SAID THAT WHILE EMBASSY NOT IN POSITION TO MAKE ANY DEFINITE COMMITMENTS, IN EVENT SOGECOM UNABLE SECURE NECESSARY FINANCING, WE WOULD ATTEMPT PUT GURC IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH US FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND MANUFACTURERS (FYI: MONTOGOMERY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PURSUING MATTER,BUT ONLY ON DIRECT BASIS, WITHOUT ANY MIDDLEMEN).

5. FINALLY SUBJECT OF DATT VISIT RAISED. DATT CURRENTLY VISITING FORMER WEST CAMEROON AND WILL BE YAOUNDE AVAILABLE FOR APPOINTMENTS APRIL 24 AND 25. WADJIRI GIVEN COPIES OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES ON VISIT AND TOLD OF AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH EBOUA ON SUBJECT (REFTEL D). DCM HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH DEPUTY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL NKWAIN ON VISIT AND HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT ARMED FORCES MINISTRY HAD BEEN INFORMED. HOWEVER, WADJIRI SAID HE LEARNING OF VISIT FOR FIRST TIME AND WOULD BE IN CONTACT WITH EMBASSY CONCERNING APPOINTMENTS BEFORE IRVING RETURN TO YAOUNDE.

6. COMMENT: DURING MY TENURE AS AMBASSADOR THIS MEETING AT
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WADJIRI REQUEST IS FIRST OFFICIAL AMERICAN MEETING WITH ARMED FORCES MINISTRY PERSONNEL DUE GURC STRICTURES ON DIPLOMATS HAVING DIRECT CONTACT WITH MILITARY. WHILE POST AWARE OF PROVISIONS 10 FAM 752 C, REQUEST FOR INFO FOR M-16 PURCHASE TRANSMITTED THROUGH EMBASSY CHANNELS DUE DIRECT APPEAL BY WADJIRI AND SEMENGUE. WADJIRI ALSO SAID HE WISHED INSURE THERE NO LANGUAGE PROBLEM AND THAT GURC RECEIVE RESPONSE SOONEST. DCM ATTEMPTED PERSUADE THEM COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH COLT, BUT TO NO AVAIL. ORDER BEING SENT REFTEL A WITH REQUEST THAT IF NOT DEEMED INAPPROPRIATE IT BE TRANSMITTED TO SEALE OF COLT. BELIEVE GURC PREFERS DEAL DIRECTLY WITH COLT ON M-16'S RATHER THAN THROUGH SALES AGENTS SUCH AS GATEWAY (REFTEL B). CONTACT THROUGH EMBASSY MAY BE GURC EFFORT ELIMINATE MIDDLEMEN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 22-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: YAOUNDE
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Retention: 0
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TAGS: MASS, MILI, CM, US, (WADJIRI, IBRAHIM)
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